

# The Weekly Chieftain

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Vinita, Okla. Friday, December 27.

In view of the fast price increase, gasoline or blood clots are looked for.

If Hearst really paid \$41,500 for those Archibald letters, he paid a big price.

Helen Gould makes it clear that she is a real philanthropist by getting married.

Some of the coal contracts are declared illegal, but the money made through them seems to pass all right.

There are a great many people who feel that the proper time to begin the year's work will be Monday, January 6th.

The fact that you belong to the Society to Prevent Useless Giving is no excuse for passing up the contribution box.

You can't get people interested in reducing the cost of living until they find who is going to be appointed postmaster.

The tender and solemn feelings of the last night of the year are expressed by many people through the blowing of fish horns.

The hold-up men threaten Governor Wilson's life, but before they "get" him, the office seekers will have talked him to death.

The strictly fresh eggs are still sold to strictly fresh people who do not know that you have to call for the "newlaid" article.

While dissolving the coal trust does not make coal cheaper, it has given the department of justice healthful occupation for five years.

Strange that some people will try to please the children with really useful Christmas gifts like rubber boots, to which they are entitled anyway.

Even though leap year is about over, it is suspected that matrimony will not have to depend wholly on the efforts of the men for the next three years.

President-elect Wilson says he will not shake hands with all the people who come to Washington, but he made no rash statements like that before election.

While the Suffragettes will no doubt enjoy their walk to Albany, they will get there quicker if they jump on behind some of the farmers' wagons that come along.

The president-elect does not want the Wall street crowd to start a panic, but how in thunder are they going to get the lambs to give up their pelts unless they do?

Not merely did J. P. Morgan have to wait an hour to testify at Washington, but President Taft was not waiting at the railroad station to welcome him to the capitol.

If you have any sort of a grudge against anybody get it out of your system before the passing of this Yuletide. This is a mighty good old world after all.

Twenty-five billions capital controlled by 189 men, so the Puff committee learns, and some of the 189 are supposed to feel that they have money enough to live on comfortably.

A good deal is being said about there only being seven sleeping rooms in the White House for Governor Wilson's large family. Probably, however, they have a folding sofa bed that can be set up in the parlor when they have company.

The Good Fellows are wondering today whether there will be any empty stockings in Vinita just two days hence. A few more Good Fellows and there would not be one disappointed child in this good town.

There is a widespread movement among women to reduce the price of eggs. Perhaps the most effective movement would be to clean out and brighten up the chicken coop, so the biddies would feel in a mood to lay.

The time has gone by when the small boy can be persuaded to hang up his stocking. Santa Claus would be given a false idea of his needs by anything smaller than the family laundry bag.

The swearing off time will soon be here.

There will be no paper issued from this office tomorrow. It is Christmas and we expect to take a holiday.

The moving of the court quarters to the Washington-Harris building removes an old hand mark a block down Wilson street.

President Taft is looking up a house in New Haven, and probably he would pay a little higher rent to get near the ball grounds.

This is the best town in the world and is full of the best people, yet there are people to whom no committee ever goes to for help.

The women's pages print recipes for left-over turkey soup. If the children have their way, though, there ain't goin' ter be no left-overs.

The letter carriers carried heavy loads for Christmas, but of course anyone enjoys lugging 100 pounds 15 miles after getting used to it.

They are trying to stop useless giving, but of course young people who are starting life in three rooms will still be glad to get \$100 sideboards.

President-elect Wilson steered the ship while on his way back from Bermuda, but somehow he forgot to go down and help the cooks get dinner.

The 20 cent parcels post stamp shows an aeroplane carrying mail, but it might be well to ask the postmaster not to ship eggs and china that way.

The New York suffragettes are to march on Albany, but they should not undertake to do housework as that would keep them on their feet too much.

Congress' three weeks in Washington before the holidays were usually spent in looking after the garden seeds and advancing the river and harbor bill.

It is always advisable to send a rich Christmas fruit pudding to a dyspeptic, so that he shall think of the motive behind the gift rather than the thing itself.

Recipes to make hens lay are advertised, but probably going out to the coop and giving the biddies a good fatherly talking to is as effective as anything.

The fact that Harvard students spent almost as much for their books as for their drinks is mentioned as an evidence of growing seriousness among college youth.

The new anti-typhoid treatment has stopped the disease in the navy, and the doctors on shore will no doubt use it unless the wrong kind of "paths" gets hold of it first.

The son of L. R. Swift, the millionaire packer, has donned overalls and gone into his father's plant, thus avoiding real work attending five o'clock teas and society dances.

The "Keep to the right" rule is urged for holiday shoppers, but there will never be any trouble if people who are walking in the opposite direction will get off the sidewalk.

Charitable people are sending Christmas turkeys to the jails, almshouses, and stockholders in the express companies who are going to suffer so much from the parcels post.

The women do not take kindly to Mrs. Catt's proposal that they adopt Chinese fashions, but perhaps if they were expensive as well as ugly they might meet with more favor.

Vincent Astor has joined the Rhinebeck, N. Y., fire department. He should remember that the first duty of an amateur at this business is to break all the windows of a burning building.

It is generally admitted that The Hague Court of Arbitration might be trusted to act on police court cases, but more important things are questions of national honor and can't be arbitrated.

It is singular that the United States has been so long in awakening to the tremendous importance of farming as an industry, and to our inadequate provisions for financing the farmer. Agricultural credit societies are now a leading topic of discussion, and occupy page after page of the newspapers and magazines. The organizations abroad are being studied with a view to adapting them to American conditions. And the fact has been brought forcefully home that each of the agricultural credit societies abroad is buttressed by a scientific banking system. Not one could do extensive good without such support. Before we can finance the farmer as he deserves, our unscientific banking system must be reformed.

## HANGING UP THE STOCKING.

An exchange mourns the decadence of the pretty custom of hanging up the stockings of the children. It attributes the change to the spread of steam-heated houses and apartments. The chimney used to be big enough to take in Santa, so that it seemed a perfectly natural avenue of entrance to the youngsters. In half the modern houses the children perhaps never know there is a chimney.

There was a time, too, when a good sized stocking would hold most of the gifts the average boy expected to get. A golden orange, some nuts and popcorn, candy, a jack-knife, a jumping jack for the smaller fry, a cheap toy watch, a doll for the girl, little books of fairy stories, sets of tin soldiers, autograph albums, these were the type of gifts with which millions of boys and girls had to be contented. A stocking full of them, with perhaps a pair of skates or a sled as an extra, was enthusiastically welcomed.

Now that aeroplanes, cameras, mechanical fire engines, railroad trains, double ripper sleds, are typical presents, it is felt that Santa has become pretty stingy if he merely fills up a stocking.

## THE FARMER AND THE PARCELS POST.

Before long, farmers will be delivering food products direct to town customers by parcels post.

Take the case of a farmer living 10 miles from this town. He, of course, realizes that many people would like to buy eggs, fruits, butter, vegetables, etc., direct from the farms. But the time of himself or a capable man, delivering such products from door to door, with horse or automobile, would be worth at least \$4 to \$5 a day.

Add to this the loss to his business from his absence. Probably altogether it would cost him at least \$10 a day.

The parcels post would permit a farmer to mail 20 five pound packages to customers in this town for \$3.40. Lighter packages would be much less. In cases where he lives on a rural route, he could mail them to the town where the route starts for \$1.80. His customers will pay the postage and advertising bills to get fresh goods and save middleman's profit.

The way to connect with the people who want this service is to advertise in the local paper. A small notice in the classified columns of this newspaper will soon give a farmer a list of customers for such products as can be delivered by the parcels post, up to 11 pounds weight.

## THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

Reference to newspapers published in all parts of the country give cause for rejoicing that Santa Claus is universally busy these days, and the indications are that notwithstanding there are many thousand more little boys and girls than a year ago fewer will be disappointed when they wake up Christmas morning. The spirit of Christmas is growing more and more unselfish and the hearts of men and women are becoming more and more receptive to the mute pleadings of little folk not their own. Here in Kansas City there is to be a great big municipal Christmas tree on which will hang thousands of toys and packages of candy for children not otherwise provided for. In addition to this grand scheme of gift distribution there are various commendable semi-private enterprises that will fill stockings with good things without a word of inquiry as to whether these stockings are ragged or otherwise.

As it is being done in Kansas City, so are similar efforts being put forth in practically every city, town and hamlet in the broad nation. The new Christmas spirit is spreading and developing and it is accomplishing wonders not only in bringing joy to thousands and thousands of youngsters who might otherwise yearn in vain for evidence of Santa Claus' visit, but it is making a nation full of men and women better. The Christmas appeal reaches the heart. It is different from any other appeal. He who can resist this appeal with a hardened heart is dead to every sense of human sympathy. The Christmas appeal plays legitimately upon the most sacred memories and it awakens thoughts that may have lain dormant for decades. The men and women who have been buffeted by the storms of the years, who have battled with the adversities of a selfish world until their sensibilities are calloused, can yet be reached by this appeal in behalf of the little children.

In times past it has been the custom for most well-to-do fathers and mothers to think only of their own offspring safe and warm in homes of comfort and luxury. To them Christmas meant only that their own children should revel in abundance and enjoy the fruits of opulence. Sometimes the real Christmas spirit was almost buried by the munificence of its expression. Children of the rich were delighted by presents so extravagant that they taught their recipients habits of improvidence and waste. But it is growing more and more the habit of Americans to extend their Christmas giving beyond the circle of their own families and immediate friends,

and this had led to investigations that have opened eyes and hearts to the needs of the poor. Dealers are reporting that rich men are now buying simpler toys for their children and giving more and more to others. This generous disposition is doing much to make Christmas what it ought to be—a time for universal sharing of blessings and comforts.

## INVESTIGATING THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

There will always be stock and produce exchanges. From the dawn of history men have gathered at central points to buy and sell commodities. In Europe there are great trading fairs, like that at Nijni Novgorod, where for centuries country people have gathered to swap tallow, hides, grain, and cattle for manufactured products.

The stock exchange is simply the modern counterpart. Men swap paper certificates of ownership, instead of the real article owned.

Let no one think that the result of the pending investigation of Wall street will be the closing of the stock exchanges. If the brokers were turned out of doors, they would simply meet in the street or on a vacant lot, and existing evils would be aggravated by lack of regulation.

While this is true, the country at large is not much in sympathy with Wall street methods.

There is a story traditionally current among shoe dealers, that years ago a manufacturer of shoes, now deceased, once begged or hired friends and neighbors to go to the shoe stores of a certain large city. In each place the emissary asked, "Do you keep John B. Smith's Celebrated Brogans? No? Well I don't care to trade then, Good day."

It is said that some of the retailers "fell" for it, and at once ordered Smith's Celebrated Brogans.

A man who perpetrated a silly and transparent little advertising trick like that would be laughed at today. Yet how does it differ from the acts of brokers who issue orders for matched sales and purchases. Like Smith, they do it to give the public a false impression that there is a large demand for a certain property, when there is no such demand.

The stock exchange performs a useful service to this extent, that it establishes valuations. The owner of a share of a property can learn pretty closely what it is worth. Otherwise owners would often sell far below what a property is worth.

But Wall street is a parasite that sucks life blood from the whole nation by encouraging the gambling and get rich quick spirit, and by fake manipulations of stocks. Why does not Wall street need strict regulation just as much as the railroads?

## EYE-STRAIN CAUSED BY "MOVIES."

Constant attendance at moving-picture shows may cause eye troubles similar to those of eye-strain. This statement is made by Dr. George M. Gould in a recent issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association. Dr. Gould says that he has recently made a practice of asking his patients, "What were you doing the evening or afternoon previous to your headache or giddiness or upset stomach?" "Nothing at all," is the usual reply, "that is, nothing out of the ordinary. I was at the 'movies' for a couple of hours and went to bed as soon as I got home, as I was feeling badly." Dr. Gould warns physicians, oculists and nerve specialists to be on the watchout for such symptoms, and when found that attendance at moving-picture shows be considered as a cause. The symptoms, he says, do not differ greatly from those caused by strain or abuse of the eyes of any kind. The most common are those of sick headache, such as intense weariness of the eyes and brain, a dazed, "good for nothing" feeling, lack of energy and appetite, "upset stomach," vomiting, sleepiness and other effects. If the patient is wearing glasses, he may think "my glasses need changing." But on consultation with his oculist it may be found that the glasses are all right, and that the cinematograph is to blame. But if the "movies" are not to blame, probably fitted glasses will enable the patient to attend moving-picture shows without discomfort. Without proper glasses, however, the cinematograph will more clearly cause nervous symptoms in the patient than when good glasses are worn, as there is no doubt that moving-picture shows put a terrific strain on even the least defective eyes, while the strain is increased by poor glasses or lack of glasses when they are needed. Dr. Gould says that the principal faults of moving-picture shows is that the "fixation point," chosen by the eye (that is the point on which the eye rests) is unstable and jerky and the eye is tired and strained in following this point. The swiftly passing series of pictures tires the eye and the brain, and the illumination is generally poor. To correct these faults he suggests that the time of exposure of each image be shortened and that better illumination be required. The enormous growth of moving-picture shows in the last ten years and the adoption of the cinematograph for

teaching and for various commercial uses, as well as its probable growth in the future, makes it important that the effect of moving pictures on the eyes should be carefully observed.

## THE CAT CONGRESS AND CATS.

The announcement that a Cat Congress is to be held during January at Washington will be received with varied emotions.

The position of Kitty in modern society has been under attack of late from many humanitarian people. The complaint is that cats destroy a great many birds, many more than is commonly supposed.

The holding of a Cat Congress may seem to such persons an unworthy dignifying of an animal whom they feel to be hostile to peace and harmony in the family of lower animals. To this it might be said that if all friends of cats would attach a tinkling bell during the months when young birds are learning to fly, this charge against poor Tabby could not be made.

There may be other persons, who, while not hostile to the cat for such reasons, yet would regard the cat as too in conspicuous an animal to be dignified by the holding of a congress. They will ask why grown men and women should hire a hall, travel distances to transport their feline thoroughbreds, spend valuable time and money on an animal that produces neither food nor drink.

Anyone who has read in Rudyard Kipling's "Just So" stories, of the "Cat who walked by its wild alone, waving its wild tail," must admit the justice of its feeling that the cat is a creature having a very aristocratic dignity of its own.

Not merely is the cat a creature of singular beauty, graceful in every motion. Not merely does she have a hereditary function in the family as a destroyer of vermin. More than that she has a certain self-contained independence that gives interest to her character. She is attached more to places than people, she holds herself in reserve, she has her own determined will, she never gives herself to human beings in the affectionate transports manifested by the dog.

Meekly as Kitty sits purring by the fireside, she has a certain very distinctive and self-contained personality of her own, calmly independent of human coming and goings if her simple wants are supplied.

This self-sufficient reserve attracts an interest you cannot feel in the dog who follows every passerby who whistles at him. Well may a fine type of cats then be bred, and displayed at Cat Congresses, and perhaps under sue btraining the predatory instincts of common mongrel types could be eliminated.

## THE KENYON BILL.

Enough was developed in the debate in the senate yesterday on the Kenyon interstate shipping bill, wherein it is sought to legislate on the shipment of intoxicating liquors from "wet" into "dry" territory, to establish the doubtful wisdom of the passage of such a measure.

In the first place the inquiries made by the strongest lawyers in the senate of those senators who advocated the bill clearly show that in the judgment of these lawyers there is grave doubt as to the constitutional power of congress to delegate to the laws of the states and the whim and caprice of state officials.

When the advocates of the measure were forced to concede through these inquiries that the second section of the Kenyon bill is of doubtful constitutionality, they made the "practical" concession that the bill in its entirety is unconstitutional, for section one of the proposed bill makes the laws of the states, whatever they may be, the rule by which interstate shipments are to be controlled.

That this is dangerous and pernicious legislation is best shown by the fact that if the inviolability of interstate commerce from state interference is once jeopardized with respect to one article of interstate commerce, it establishes a precedent that may arise to plague the makers of our laws upon other articles of legitimate commerce at the behest of agitators in one or more of the states.

Of the 48 states now in the Union but 8 states have state-wide laws prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquors. Others have county, municipal, parish, or township prohibitions of manufacture and sale. No state prohibits the use of liquors or their possession for personal use. Nearly all states have search and seizure laws. It looks as if, aside from the constitutional validity of a measure delegating to the states the regulation of interstate shipments of liquor, the advocates of the Kenyon bill should devote their energies to the enforcement of state laws of unquestioned validity. Strict enforcement of state laws would accomplish all that the advocates of the Kenyon bill assert they are seeking.

The Kenyon bill, aside from its verbiage, proposes to subject interstate shipments of liquors to the operation of state laws before the interstate shipment is completed by delivery to the consignee.

If further congressional regulation of interstate liquor shipments is desired beyond the criminal code provisions with respect to marking the kind and quantity of liquor and the name of the consignee on the package, it would appear preferable to have the regulation contained in an act of congress which would furnish a national rule, and not to subject foreign and interstate shipments of liquor to as many different interstate regulations as there are states in the Union.—Washington Post.

## A CHRISTMAS STORY.

One day a poor old woman drove into town in a rickety spring wagon. She tied her horse to a post near the schoolhouse. It was about as bad looking an old horse as you ever saw. The woman hobbled away with feeble steps to sell a few eggs which she had in a basket. Just as she was out of sight the bell rang for the noon hour, and a crowd of jolly, noisy boys rushed out of the school house. The air in a moment was full of their shouts and laughter.

"Halloo! See that horse!" "Ho! ho! ho! Who ever saw such a looking old thing!"

"As thin as a rail." "You can count all his ribs."

"He looks as if he hadn't spirit to hold his head up."

"Looks half starved. Say, bony, is there enough of you left to scare?" Two or three boys squealed in the ears of the horse and gave him small pokes; others jumped before him to try to frighten him.

"Let's lead him 'round to the back of the building and tie him there, so that when the folks he belongs to come they'll think he's run away."

"He run away!"

"Say, boys," put in one boy, who loved all animals, "There's no fun in tormenting such a poor fellow. He does look half starved—yes, more than half, I should say. And we all know it isn't good to feel that way since the day we got lost in the woods nutting."

Have you ever noticed how easily boys—and men too, for that matter—are led either into kindness or cruelty? One word in either direction and all follow like a flock of sheep. Wouldn't it be good for boys to remember this, and to reflect upon how far they may be called on to answer for the influence they may exert over others?

The boys stopped their teasing and began to look at the horse with different eyes, while one of them brushed the flies off him.

"Let's tie him under that tree," proposed a second; "the sun's too hot here."

"Look here, boys, I wish we could give him something to eat while he's standing."

"Can't we?" "A real bang-up good dinner, such as he hasn't had for a century by the looks of him."

"Let's do it. I've got a nickel."

"I've got two cents."

"I'll give another nickel if you'll come over to my father's feed store." More cents came in. The man at the feed store contributed a nearly worn-out bag, and in a few moments the poor old horse was enjoying a good meal of oats.

By the time he had finished it the old woman came back, her basket filled with groceries, for which she had exchanged her eggs. The cord of sympathy and kindness once touched in the careless yet well-meaning hearts continued to vibrate. We all know how one taste of a kind act makes us long to taste more. "I'll give your basket in," said one respectfully.

"See, here's a lot of oats left. We'll put 'em in the wagon."

"She looks pretty near as starved as the horse," came in a suggestive whisper.

A few small contributions from lunch baskets were hastily wrapped in a piece of paper and laid on top of the basket.

"Now I'll untie."

The old woman was helped in as if she had been a queen. And every boy's heart glowed as the quivering voice and dim eyes bore a burden of warm thanks as she drove away.

Those were every-day school-boys. There are millions and millions like them, only they do not quite realize what a spirit of loving-kindness dwells in their hearts. Let it out, boys and girls; for it is you who are to lift this whole world into an atmosphere higher, sweeter, and brighter than has known before.—Advocate.

There will be satisfaction if t speculators lose money on their co storage eggs, still more if the speculators should have to eat them themselves.

It is claimed that 18 men run business of the country, but it v never run smooth until they get i the hands of a committee of three. Mo then give the chairman a free ha

While the newspapers have co piled very generally with the public law, there is a growing feeling th Uncle Sam is bluffing the adverti about the circulation of the Congr sional Record.